CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for removing silicone sealant from a surface of a temperature resistant article, the method comprising heating the article to a temperature of approximately 325 degrees Celsius.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of heating the article includes the step of heating the article to a temperature of approximately 375 degrees or greater.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of heating the article includes the step of heating the article approximately between 325 degrees Celsius and 425 degrees Celsius, and allowing the sealant to thermally degrade.

4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising mechanically removing the thermally degraded sealant from the article.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of heating the article includes the step of placing the article on a conveyor through a tunnel oven.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of heating the article includes the step of placing the article in an oven having a containment area for receiving the article and a door for isolating the article from an outside environment.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of heating the article includes heating the article for at least 20 minutes.

8. A method for disassembling an article having at least two portions joined by a silicone sealant, at least one of the portions being a glass-ceramic material, the

method comprising heating the article to a temperature greater than approximately 325 degrees.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of heating the article includes the step of heating the article approximately between 325 degrees Celsius and 425 degrees Celsius.

10. The method according to claim 9, further comprising mechanically separating the at least two portions.

11. A method of manufacturing glass-ceramic cooktops comprising the steps of:

applying a silicone sealant between a glass-ceramic cooking surface and a frame of each of the cooktops;

inspecting each of the cooktops to detect defects;

heating cooktops having defects to thermally degrade the silicone sealant; and

salvaging at least one of the glass-ceramic cooking surface and the frame from each of the heated cooktops for reuse.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of applying includes applying the silicone sealant to adhere the glass-ceramic cooking surface to the frame and to provide a moisture resistant seal between the glass-ceramic cooking surface and the frame.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of inspecting includes inspecting each of the cooktops to detect defects related to the application of the sealant.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of heating includes heating the cooktops having defects to a temperature approximately between 375 degrees Celsius and 425 degrees Celsius.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of heating further comprises heating the cooktops having defects for a duration greater than 20 minutes.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of heating further comprises heating the cooktops having defects for a duration less than 60 minutes.

17. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of salvaging includes reusing the glass-ceramic cooking surface to manufacture a new cooktop.

18. The method of claim 11, further comprising mechanically removing the silicone sealant following the step of heating the cooktop.